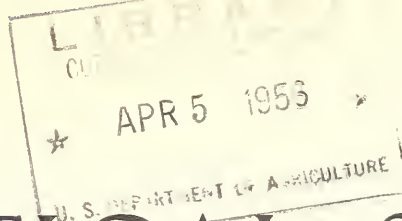


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. June 17, 1955 SS151

Crop Prospects Improved by May Rains

Soaking general rains and better growing weather in late May over much of the Nation improved the production outlook for the 1955 crop season. June 1 appraisals of prospects for "all crops" are somewhat below last year and below the 1944-53 average. Winter grains and early hay cuttings in many sections were too near maturity to profit greatly from the rains which reprieved large sections of the Great Plains from a near "dust bowl" status. Crop response to June 1 had by no means offset slow progress in earlier weeks from dry or cool weather or crippling March freeze damage to some southern crops. Greatest gains are in prospect for corn, spring grains, cotton, tobacco, new plantings of sorghums and other catch crops, and pastures and late forage growth. Areas relying mainly on irrigation also benefited from May and early June rainfall, which lessened early season demand on below average storage supplies of water.

Below-Average Wheat Crop

All wheat - 845 million bushels - 13% less than in 1954; smallest since 1943; 27% below 1944-53 average.

Winter wheat - 639 million bushels - 14 million bushels less than May 1 estimate; 19% smaller than in 1954.

All spring wheat - 206 million bushels - up 15% from 1954; 28% below average.

Corn Mostly Planted by June 1

The corn crop was nearly all planted by June 1. In most areas, May weather was favorable for the early growth and cultivation of corn. In the Corn Belt the condition is good, stands are better than usual, and fields generally clean. Soil moisture supplies are rather generally satisfactory after good rains in late May.

Spring Grain Prospects Improved

Spring grain seedings were mainly completed at favorable dates. Rains in the Great Plains and in the Pacific Northwest aided grain prospects, which also remain excellent in most Central and Northern areas east of the Mississippi River. Southern grains varied greatly in growth following early freeze damage, with wheat and barley generally showing best recovery.

Soybean planting trailed only slightly after corn planting and good stands are generally in evidence. Cotton planting took on a new push in the Southwest in late May. Extensive plantings of sorghums are in progress; the total may exceed all previous records.

Peanut stands are poor this year because of low seed germination and lack of soil moisture in many fields at planting time. Rainy and cloudy weather has favored tobacco setting in main tobacco belts and plants are generally well started.

Rye Crop Prospects Declined in May

Continued dry weather in the principal producing States lowered prospects for rye about 3.6 million bushels during May. The 1955 crop, now forecast at 25.8 million bushels, is still 9 percent larger than the 1954 crop and almost one-fourth larger than average. About one-fourth more acreage is expected to be harvested for grain than in 1954.

Rains Improved Hay Prospects

Hay crops received serious setbacks during the first half of May from frosts, lack of moisture, and insects. This, together with damage from earlier frost and droughty conditions, was reflected in the disappointingly low yields from first cuttings of alfalfa and clover hays throughout the southern two-thirds of the country. However, substantial late May rainfall in most of the hay producing areas greatly aided growth of uncut hay and improved yield prospects for second cuttings. The late moisture was of outstanding benefit in South Central States and in the central and northern Great Plains.

Pasture Condition Below Average

Pasture feed on farms on June 1 was the poorest for the date in 16 years, averaging 78 percent of normal, compared with 80 percent a year earlier,

Production Comparisons

Commodity	Jan.-May, 1954	Jan.-May, 1955
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	53.2	52.8
Eggs, (bil.).....	30.0	30.8
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	23,112	23,123
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.).....	23,142	23,747
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	1 2 221	2 230
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	1 26,734	27,356

¹Revised.

²January-April under Federal inspection.

Nonfarm Indexes of Interest to Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Apr. 1954	Mar. 1955	Apr. 1955
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	104	101	102
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	112	111	111
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	134	1147	146

¹Revised.

and the 1944-53 average of 86 percent. Recent rainfall, however, could quickly improve pastures throughout large areas. Western ranges, although generally slow in growth and short on feed, have shown near record improvement during the past month from the extremely low May 1 condition.

Vegetable Production Below Last Year

Production of spring vegetables and melons this year is expected to be about 4 percent less than in 1954 but 9 percent above the 1949-53 average. Marketings of most of these crops are expected to show more than the usual seasonal increase during June as harvest in many States has been delayed by adverse spring weather. Early and mid-summer vegetable and melon crops are expected to be about 7 percent larger than in 1954.

Prospective plantings of 9 principal vegetables for commercial processing are about 3 percent less than last year.

Below-Average Fruit Crops

Total production of deciduous fruits in 1955 will be only moderately below average, despite spring freeze damage which was severe in all Southern States and sizable in Michigan, Illinois, and California. Prospects are above average for grapes, sweet cherries, sour cherries, apricots, and figs; slightly below average for apples and pears; moderately below average for plums; and sharply below average for peaches and prunes.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS--APRIL 1955

Item	April 1955	April 1955 compared with April 1954	Jan.-Apr. 1955 compared with Jan.-Apr. 1954
Chicks hatched ¹	Millions 270	Percent -11	Percent -16
Chicks placed ²	72	+4	-1
Poult hatched: ¹			
Heavy breeds.....	12.6	-9	-13
Light breeds	1.7	-27	-32
Chickens tested:	Thousands		
Broilers	596	-3	³ +7
All others	52	+31	³ -2
Turkeys tested:			
Heavy breeds	11.6	+187	³ +5
Light breeds	22.0	+98	³ -20
Poultry canned	Mil. lbs. 17.8	-7	+9
Production:			
Liquid egg.....	80.0	-6	-15
Dried egg (egg solids)...	2.9	-7	-8
Frozen egg	64.9	-8	-18
Evaporated whole milk...	256.5	+5	+9
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	130.2	-7	-12
Butter, creamery.....	128.0	-10	-12
Cheese, American	96.7	-5	-11
Ice cream			
Ice cream	1,000 gal. 50.1	-1	+3

¹By commercial hatcheries.

²13 principal producing areas.

³July-April.

Walnut and filbert crops are expected to be above average but almonds moderately below. The pecan crop will be short because of heavy freeze damage.

Citrus Fruits

The Florida citrus area needs moisture but trees and fruit are generally in good condition. In Texas, irrigation water has been plentiful and trees are in excellent condition; the set of new crop fruit, however, is erratic. In the Arizona citrus areas, growing conditions during May continued fairly favorable and prospects are fair for the 1955-56 crops. Conditions in California citrus areas have been favorable.

May Milk Output Tops 13 Billion Pound Mark

Milk production in May totaled 13,088 million pounds--the first time in a quarter century of

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	April 15, 1955	May 15, 1955	May 15, 1955
Wheat, bu.	dol. 2.09	2.13	2.51
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.36	1.40	1.82
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 12.5	12.5	13.6
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb.	ct. 31.93	31.51	35.22
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 2.17	2.23	1.46
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 16.60	16.40	21.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 17.00	16.30	21.30
Calves, 100 lb.	dol. 17.60	17.20	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 19.60	18.20	23.30
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 57.1	56.7	73.6
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 3.75	13.62	4.68
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 26.4	25.1	29.0
Eggs, doz.	ct. 35.9	33.8	46.2

¹Preliminary.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	May 15, 1954 ²	April 15, 1955 ²	May 15, 1955
Prices received by farmers.....	255	247	244
Crops	246	252	255
Food grains	227	236	240
Feed grains and hay	207	197	200
Tobacco	446	437	436
Cotton	272	270	266
Fruit	217	216	209
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt.	247	270	308
Oil-bearing crops	236	261	259
Livestock and products	263	242	234
Meat animals	324	269	260
Dairy products	231	241	236
Poultry and eggs	169	185	175
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	267	265	263
Commodities used in living.....	276	274	274
Commodities used in production	256	254	251
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	284	284	282
Wage rates ¹	507	516	516
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers)	90	87	87

¹Seasonally adjusted.

²Revised.

record that milk production in any month has exceeded 13 billion pounds. Output was 1 percent above May 1954 and 6 percent above the 1944-53 average for May. Milk output in May was sufficient to provide each person in the U. S. 2.57 pounds daily. This was 4 percent less than average because of increase in population. January-May production totaled 52.8 billion pounds, 1 percent below the 1954 January-May record output.

May Egg Production 5% Above Year Ago

Farm flocks laid 6,440 million eggs in May--5 percent more than in May 1954 and 6 percent above the 1944-53 average. Production was above a year ago in all parts of the country. January-May production was 3 percent above a year ago.

Roughage Fed to Milk Cows

During the October 1954 - May 1955 winter feeding season, dairy farmers reporting to the USDA fed the following roughage:

Hay - 2.2 tons per cow

alfalfa and mixed alfalfa 63%

clover, mixed clover, lespedeza.... 22%

other hays..... 15%

6/7 was homegrown, 1/7 purchased.

On Feb. 1, 1955, average value per ton... \$24.18

68% was baled hay, 25% loose hay, 7%

chopped hay.

Silage - 2.2 tons per cow

7/10 was corn silage, 2/10 grass silage, 1/10 other.

Other roughage - 0.1 ton per cow.

Land Values Firm to Slightly Higher

Farm real estate values remained generally firm to slightly higher in most areas of the country during the 4 months ended March 1, 1955. At 125 percent of the 1947-49 base, the index was 1 percent above November 1954 and 2 percent above March 1954. Moderate recovery in values was noted in the South Central States where some weakness occurred in 1954 as a result of widespread drought. Values in the central Corn Belt continued the slow rate of advance apparent in 1954. No significant change occurred in the Southeastern States where the 1954 drought and reduction in the acreage of cotton for 1955 were the major restraining factors.

Farm Mortgage Debt Continues Rise

Demand for farm-mortgage credit continued strong in 1954 and the first half of 1955 while farm-mortgage money was generally available on favorable rates and terms. Total farm-mortgage debt increased about 7 percent in 1954, and is estimated at \$8.2 billion on January 1, 1955. Indications are that the increase in 1955 will be comparable to that in 1954. In the first quarter of 1955, the dollar amount of Federal land bank loans closed was 47 percent above the same period in 1954, and the amount of farm mortgages acquired by 16 large life insurance companies was about 27 percent higher.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, April 1955^{1 2}

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine	8,814	22,281	31,095
New Hampshire	4,565	1,137	5,702
Vermont	8,150	2,371	10,521
Massachusetts	9,918	5,639	15,557
Rhode Island	1,434	694	2,128
Connecticut	8,124	6,835	14,959
New York	52,416	17,501	69,917
New Jersey	18,296	7,491	25,787
Pennsylvania	47,859	13,520	61,379
North Atlantic	159,576	77,469	237,045
Ohio	57,779	23,635	81,414
Indiana	56,722	17,774	74,496
Illinois	83,341	38,884	122,225
Michigan	33,556	17,653	51,209
Wisconsin	76,069	7,872	83,941
East North Central	307,467	105,818	413,285
Minnesota	72,305	20,763	93,068
Iowa	120,584	30,247	150,831
Missouri	65,021	5,338	70,359
North Dakota	9,239	19,095	28,334
South Dakota	24,620	7,208	31,828
Nebraska	58,605	21,935	80,540
Kansas	47,113	23,160	70,273
West North Central	397,487	127,746	525,233
Delaware	6,440	827	7,267
Maryland	13,808	2,884	16,692
Virginia	20,434	4,980	25,414
West Virginia	7,069	1,481	8,550
North Carolina	18,483	7,277	25,760
South Carolina	7,385	4,979	12,364
Georgia	22,635	9,475	32,110
Florida	9,592	84,390	93,982
South Atlantic	105,846	116,293	222,139
Kentucky	18,740	2,254	20,994
Tennessee	17,496	3,386	20,882
Alabama	15,679	4,613	20,292
Mississippi	11,987	10,462	22,449
Arkansas	15,037	18,171	33,208
Louisiana	9,556	11,415	20,971
Oklahoma	22,037	4,672	26,709
Texas	78,433	27,653	106,086
South Central	188,965	82,626	271,591
Montana	7,481	9,273	16,754
Idaho	10,920	12,125	23,045
Wyoming	3,665	490	4,155
Colorado	24,301	7,999	32,300
New Mexico	8,343	2,119	10,462
Arizona	9,040	8,610	17,650
Utah	8,311	1,793	10,104
Nevada	2,488	471	2,959
Washington	13,800	12,090	25,890
Oregon	11,604	7,263	18,867
California	78,429	73,200	151,629
Western	178,382	135,433	313,815
United States	1,337,723	645,385	1,983,108

¹All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

²For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts From Farming, United States¹

Source	Apr. 1955	May 1955 ²
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	1,983	1,900
Livestock and products	1,338	1,400
Meat animals	674	
Dairy products	365	
Poultry and eggs	272	
Other	27	
Crops	645	500
Food grains	96	
Feed crops	118	
Cotton (lint and seed)	38	
Oil-bearing crops	34	
Tobacco	6	
Vegetables	174	
Fruits and tree nuts	63	
Other	116	
Government payments	15	
Total cash receipts	1,998	

¹For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Preliminary.

³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1954 average.....	\$985	\$427	\$558	43%
1954-April.....	984	440	544	45%
1955-March ³	971	411	560	42%
April.....	974	413	561	42%

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation. ³Revised.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington 25, D. C.

RECENT REPORTS

Tobacco Statistics

"Annual Report on Tobacco Statistics, 1954," 19th in the series, has recently been issued by AMS. It is a compilation of the most frequently used statistics relating to tobacco, mainly for the last 5 years.

Feeds for Livestock

The Agricultural Research Service has issued Statistical Bulletin No. 153, "Relative Use of Feeds For Livestock, Including Pasture, by States." It shows in "feed units" (the equivalent in feeding value of a pound of corn) the various kinds of feed used by different kinds of livestock.

Spraying and Dusting on Farms

A new report on "Extent and Cost of Spraying and Dusting on Farms--1952" has been issued by the Agricultural Research Service and AMS. The report gives statistics, by States, on weed control on farm land, insect and disease control on specified crops, and insect control on livestock, barns, and shelters.

Grain and Feed Statistics

AMS recently published "Grain and Feed Statistics Through 1954" (formerly Feed Statistics--Including Wheat--Rye--Rice). It provides long-term basic series on stocks, production, supplies, utilization, commercial movement, foreign trade, and prices of grains and feeds.

Farm Disposition of Crops

The AMS has published a report on "Field and Seed Crops--Farm Production, Farm Disposition and Value by States, 1953-54," one of a series of reports on estimated farm disposition of major farm products.

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